

Media, PA – More than 150 people gathered to celebrate the success of the Media Theatre at the organization's annual gala on Saturday night. Congressman Joe Sestak (PA -07) was among the attendees who recognized what has been hailed as the "Miracle on State Street." — Congressman Sestak addressed the crowd, commenting on the benefits of having a professional theater in downtown Media, specifically speaking to the contribution of the theater to the regional economy.

"Tonight I congratulate the Media Theatre for its tremendous success," said the Congressman. "This venue is a center of excellence for the arts, while being the second largest employer in Media. This theatre and its committed audience members contribute 2.8 million dollars to the community's economy, and bring in more than \$160,000 in annual revenue."

The Congressman added that the theatre is a cultural touchstone for the region, selling 50,000 tickets annually and hosting hundreds of local students at its Theatre Camp. The Congressman has long noted that the arts are a crucial and indispensable part of American society.

"As President John F. Kennedy said, 'I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment and which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens. And I look forward to an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization as well.'"

The Media Theatre is currently presenting the play Souvenir until February 17. The season will be rounded out with The Buddy Holly Story followed by The Full Monty.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.